REMARKS

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for her suggestions to the claims during the telephonic interview on September 17, 2003.

The amendments to the claims are to correct and add dependency and to remove any possible duplicate claims. No new matter has been added by this amendment.

CONCLUSION

Applicants earnestly believe that they are entitled to a letters patent on the pending claims, and respectfully solicit the Examiner to expedite prosecution of this patent application to issuance. Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned. If the Examiner determines that the claims are not allowable, Applicants request an opportunity to interview the Examiner.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Assistant Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to <u>Deposit Account No. 03-1664</u> referencing docket no. <u>PP00063.021</u>. However, the Assistant Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: September 19, 2003

Alisa A. Harbin

Reg. No. 33,895

CHIRON CORPORATION Intellectual Property - R440 P.O. Box 8097 Emeryville, CA 94608 (510) 923-3179 (510) 655-3542 (Fax) By:

Sep-19-03

PATENT USSN 08/441,355 Docket No. 223002006313 Client Reference PP00063.021

VERSION SHOWING MARKINGS

In the Claims:

1-117 (Canceled).

- 118. (Previously presented) A method of selecting biological samples from a supply of human biological samples comprising selecting from said supply those samples that comprise antibodies that form an antigen-antibody complex with an amino acid sequence of at least 10 contiguous amino acids encoded by a hepatitis C virus genome.
- 119. (Previously presented) A method of selecting biological samples from a supply of human biological samples comprising selecting from said supply those samples that comprise antibodies that form an antigen-antibody complex with an HCV polypeptide sequence of at least 10 contiguous amino acid encoded by an HCV cDNA insert in the lambda gt-11 library deposited as ATCC deposit No. 40394.

120-122. (Canceled)

- 123. (Previously presented) A method of selecting biological samples from a supply of human biological samples comprising selecting from said supply those samples that comprise antibodies that form an antigen-antibody complex with an amino acid sequence of at least 10 contiguous amino acids found in Figure 90.
- 124. (Previously presented) A method of selecting biological samples from a supply of human biological samples comprising selecting from said supply those samples that comprise antibodies that form an antigen-antibody complex with an amino acid sequence of at least 10 contiguous amino acids found in Figure 14.
- 125. (Currently amended) A method of selecting biological samples from a supply of human biological samples comprising selecting from said supply those samples that comprise antibodies that form an antigen-antibody complex with a hepatitis C virus (HCV) polypeptide

sequence of at least 10 contiguous amino acid [encoded by an HCV cDNA insert in a lambda gt-11 library deposited as ATCC deposit No. 40394.] found in Figure 62.

126-128. (Canceled)

- 129. (Previously presented) A method according to any of claims 118, 119, and 123-125 wherein said antibodies are detectable in an ELISA or radioimmunoassay.
- 130. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 129 wherein said ELISA or radioimmunoassay employs an antigen comprising said amino acid sequence made by recombinant expression.
- 131. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 130 wherein said antigen is a fusion protein.
- 132. (Previously presented) A method according to any of claims 118-119, and 123-125, wherein said biological samples are blood.

133-135. (Canceled)

- 136. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 129 wherein said biological samples are blood.
- 137. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 130 wherein said biological samples are blood.
- 138. (Previously presented) A method according to any of claims 118-119, and 123-125, wherein said biological samples are plasma.

139-141. (Canceled)

142. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 129 wherein said biological samples are plasma.

- 143. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 130 wherein said biological samples are plasma.
- 144. (Previously presented) A method according to any of claims 118-119, or 123-125, wherein said biological samples are sera.

145-147. (Canceled)

- 148. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 129 wherein said biological samples are sera.
- 149. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 130 wherein said biological samples are sera.
- 150. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 132 further comprising employing biological samples that are not selected for a preparation of blood-related products.
 - 151. (Canceled)
- 152. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 138 further comprising employing biological samples that are not selected for a preparation of blood-related products.

153-157 (Canceled)

- 158. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 132 further comprising preparing polyclonal antibodies with the selected biological samples.
 - 159. (Canceled)
- 160. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 138 further comprising preparing polyclonal antibodies with the selected biological samples.
- 161. (Currently amended) A method according to claim [142] <u>144</u> further comprising preparing polyclonal antibodies with the selected biological samples.

162-163. (Canceled)

164. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 132 wherein the selecting is to identify an HCV positive sample for removal from the supply.

165-168. (Canceled)

- 169. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 136 wherein the selecting is to identify an HCV positive sample for removal from the supply.
- 170. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 137 wherein the selecting is to identify an HCV positive sample for removal from the supply.
- 171. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 138 wherein the selecting is to identify an HCV positive sample for removal from the supply.

172-174. (Canceled)

- 175. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 142 wherein the selecting is to identify an HCV positive sample for removal from the supply.
- 176. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 143 wherein the selecting is to identify an HCV positive sample for removal from the supply.
- 177. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 144 wherein the selecting is to identify an HCV positive sample for removal from the supply.

178-180. (Canceled)

- 181. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 148 wherein the selecting is to identify an HCV positive sample for removal from the supply.
- 182. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 149 wherein the selecting is to identify an HCV positive sample for removal from the supply.

- 183. (Currently amended) A method according to any one of claims <u>118, 119</u>, 123-125, wherein the selected samples comprise antibodies that form an antigen-antibody complex with an amino acid sequence of at least 15 contiguous amino acids.
- 184. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 118 wherein the selected samples comprise antibodies that form an antigen-antibody complex with an amino acid sequence of less than about 100 contiguous amino acids encoded by a hepatitis C virus genome.
- 185. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 119 wherein the selected samples comprise antibodies that form an antigen-antibody complex with an amino acid sequence of less than about 100 contiguous amino acids encoded by an HCV cDNA insert in the lambda gt-11 library deposited as ATCC deposit No. 40394.
- 186. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 123 wherein the selected samples comprise antibodies that form an antigen-antibody complex with an amino acid sequence of less than about 100 contiguous contiguous amino acids found in Figure 90.
- 187. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 124 wherein the selected samples comprise antibodies that form an antigen-antibody complex with an amino acid sequence of less than about 100 contiguous contiguous amino acids found in Figure 14.
- 188. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 125 wherein the selected samples comprise antibodies that form an antigen-antibody complex with an amino acid sequence of less than about 100 contiguous amino acids [encoded by an HCV cDNA insert in a lambda gt-11 library deposited as ATCC deposit No. 40394.] found in Figure 62.
- 189. (Previously presented) A method according to any one of claim 118, 119, 123-125, wherein the selected samples comprise one or more contiguous amino acid sequences selected from the following group:

AA1-AA50; AA1-AA84; AA9-AA177; AA1-AA120; AA35-AA45; AA50-AA100; AA40-AA90; AA65-AA75; AA80-AA90; AA99-AA120; AA95-AA110; AA100-AA150; AA150-AA200: AA200-AA250; AA220-AA240; AA245-AA265; AA250-AA300; AA290-AA330; AA290-AA305; AA300-AA-350; AA310-AA330; AA350-AA400; AA405-AA495; AA400-AA450; AA437-AA582; AA450-AA500; AA475-AA495; AA500-AA550; AA511-AA690: AA515-AA550: AA550-AA600: AA550-AA625; AA575-AA605; AA600-AA650; AA600-AA625; AA635-AA665; AA650-AA700; AA645-AA680; AA700-AA750; AA700-AA725; AA725-AA775; AA770-AA790; AA750-AA800; AA800-AA815; AA850-AA875; AA800-AA850; AA920-AA990; AA850-AA900; AA920-AA945; AA940-AA965; AA950-AA1000; AA1000-AA1060; AA1000-AA1050; AA1025-AA1040; AA1075-AA1175-AA1000; AA1000-AA1060; AA1000-AA1050; AA1025-AA1040; AA1075-AA1175; AA1050-AA1200; AA1070-AA1100; AA1100-AA1140; AA1192-AA1457; AA1195-AA1250; AA1200-AA1225; AA1225-AA1250: AA1250-AA1300: AA1260-AA1310: AA1260-AA1280: AA1266-AA1428; AA1300-AA1350; AA1310-AA1340; AA1345-AA1405; AA1350-AA1400; AA1365-AA1380; AA1380-AA1405; AA1400-AA1450; AA1450-AA1500; AA1475-AA1515; AA1475-AA1500; AA1500-AA1550; AA1515-AA1550; AA1550-AA1600; AA1569-AA1931; AA1570-AA1590; AA1595-AA1610; AA1590-AA1650; AA1610-AA1645; AA1650-AA1690; AA1685-AA1770; AA1689-AA1805; AA1690-AA1720; AA1694-AA1735; AA1720-AA1745; AA1745-AA1770; AA1750-AA1800; AA1775-AA1810; AA1795-AA1850; AA1850-AA1900; AA1900-AA1950; AA1900-AA1920; AA1916-AA2021; AA1920-AA1940; AA1949-AA2124; AA1950-AA2000; AA1950-AA1985; AA2000-AA2050; AA2020-AA2045; AA2045-AA2100; AA2045-AA2070; AA2054-AA2223; AA2070-AA2100; AA2100-AA2150; AA2150-AA2220; AA2200-AA2345; AA2250-AA2330; AA2265-AA2280; AA2280-AA2290; AA2287-AA2385; AA2300-AA2350; AA2350-AA2400; AA2345-AA2415; AA2345-AA2375; AA2348-AA2464; AA2370-AA2410; AA2400-AA2450; AA2400-AA2425; AA2415-AA2450; AA2445-AA2500; AA2371-AA2502; AA2500-AA2550; AA2505-AA2540; AA2550-AA2600; AA2560-AA2580; AA2600-AA2650; AA2620-AA2650; AA2650-AA2700; AA2655-AA2670; AA2670-AA2700; AA2700-AA2750; AA2750-AA2800; AA2755-AA2780; AA2780-AA2830; AA2785-AA2810; AA2796-AA2886; AA2810-AA2825; AA2800-AA2850; AA2850-AA2900; AA2900-AA2950; AA2910-AA2930; and AA2925-AA2950:

wherein the contiguous amino acid sequence is depicted according to the formula AA_x - AA_y , x and y denoting amino acid numbers HCV-1 polyprotein or corresponding regions of other HCV isolates.

- 190. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 189 wherein said antibodies are detectable in an ELISA or radioimmunoassay.
- 191. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 190 wherein said ELISA or radioimmunoassay employs an antigen comprising said amino acid sequence made by recombinant expression.
- 192. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 190 wherein said biological samples are blood.
- 193. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 191 wherein said biological samples are blood.
- 194. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 190 wherein said biological samples are plasma.
- 195. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 191 wherein said biological samples are plasma.
- 196. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 190 wherein said biological samples are sera.
- 197. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 191 wherein said biological samples are sera.
- 198. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 192 wherein the selecting is to identify an HCV positive sample for removal from the supply.
- 199. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 193 wherein the selecting is to identify an HCV positive sample for removal from the supply.

- 200. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 194 wherein the selecting is to identify an HCV positive sample for removal from the supply.
- 201. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 195 wherein the selecting is to identify an HCV positive sample for removal from the supply.
- 202. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 196 wherein the selecting is to identify an HCV positive sample for removal from the supply.
- 203. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 197 wherein the selecting is to identify an HCV positive sample for removal from the supply.
- 204. (Previously presented) A method according to any one of claims 118, 119, 123-125, wherein the selected samples comprise one or more contiguous amino acid sequences selected from the following group:

AA1-AA84; AA437-AA582; AA511-AA690; AA9-AA177; AA1192-AA1457; AA1266-AA1428; AA1694-AA1735; AA1689-AA1805; AA1916-AA2021; AA1949-AA2124; AA2054-AA2223; AA2200-AA3325; AA2287-AA2385; AA2348-AA2464; AA2371-AA2502; AA2796-AA2886; AA1569-AA1931,

wherein the contiguous amino acid sequence is depicted according to the formula AA_x - AA_y , x and y denoting amino acid numbers HCV-1 polyprotein or corresponding regions of other HCV isolates.

- 205. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 204 wherein said antibodies are detectable in an ELISA or radioimmunoassay.
- 206. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 205 wherein said ELISA or radioimmunoassay employs an antigen comprising said amino acid sequence made by recombinant expression.

- 207. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 205 wherein said biological samples are blood.
- 208. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 206 wherein said biological samples are blood.
- 209. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 205 wherein said biological samples are plasma.
- 210. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 206 wherein said biological samples are plasma.
- 211. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 205 wherein said biological samples are sera.
- 212. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 206 wherein said biological samples are sera.
- 213. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 207 wherein the selecting is to identify an HCV positive sample for removal from the supply.
- 214. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 208 wherein the selecting is to identify an HCV positive sample for removal from the supply.
- 215. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 209 wherein the selecting is to identify an HCV positive sample for removal from the supply.
- 216. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 210 wherein the selecting is to identify an HCV positive sample for removal from the supply.

- 217. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 211 wherein the selecting is to identify an HCV positive sample for removal from the supply.
- 218. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 212 wherein the selecting is to identify an HCV positive sample for removal from the supply.
- 219. (Previously presented) A method according to any one of claim 118, 119, 123-125, wherein the selected samples comprise one or more contiguous amino acid sequences selected from the following group:

AA1694-AA1735; AA1569-AA1931; AA1192-AA1457; AAI-AA84; and AA9-AA177, wherein the contiguous amino acid sequence is depicted according to the formula AA_x-AA_y, x and y denoting amino acid numbers of HCV-1 polyprotein or corresponding regions of other HCV isolates.

220-283. (Canceled)

284. (Previously presented) A method of selecting samples from a supply of human biological samples comprising selecting from said supply those samples which do not comprise antibodies that form an antigen-antibody complex with an amino acid sequence of at least 10 contiguous amino acids encoded by a hepatitis C virus genome.

285. (Canceled)

286. (Previously presented) A method of selecting samples from a supply of human biological samples comprising selecting from said supply those samples which do not comprise antibodies that form an antigen-antibody complex with an amino acid sequence of at least 10 contiguous amino acids encoded by at least one of the HCV cDNA inserts in a lambda gt-11 library deposited as ATCC Deposit No. 40394.

287. (Canceled).

- 288. (Previously presented) A method of selecting samples from a supply of human biological samples comprising selecting from said supply those samples which do not comprise antibodies that form an antigen-antibody complex with an amino acid sequence of at least 10 contiguous amino acids found in Figure 90.
- 289. (Currently amended) A method of selecting samples from a supply of human biological samples comprising selecting from said supply those samples which do not comprise antibodies that form an antigen-antibody complex with an amino acid sequence of at least 10 contiguous amino acids found in Figure [62.] 14.
- 290. (Previously presented) A method of selecting samples from a supply of human biological samples comprising selecting from said supply those samples which do not comprise antibodies that form an antigen-antibody complex with an amino acid sequence of at least 10 contiguous amino acids found in Figure 62.

291-296. (Cauceled).

297. (Currently amended) A method according to any of claims [283-290] <u>284, 286, 288-290</u> wherein said biological samples are blood.

298-301. (Canceled).

302. (Currently amended) A method according to any of claims [283-290] <u>284, 286</u> <u>288-290</u> wherein said biological samples are plasma.

303-306 (Canceled).

307. (Currently amended) A method according to any of claims [283-290] <u>284, 286</u> <u>288-290</u> wherein said biological samples are sera.

308-311. (Canceled)

- 312. (Currently amended) A method according to any of claims [283, 285, 287, or 289] 118, 119, 123-125 further comprising employing biological samples that are not selected for a preparation of blood-related products.
- 313. (Currently amended) A method according to claim [291] 144 further comprising employing biological samples that are not selected for a preparation of blood-related products.
- 314. (Currently amended) A method according to claim [293] <u>130</u> further comprising employing biological samples that are not selected for a preparation of blood-related products.
- 315. (Currently amended) A method according to any of claims 284, 286, 288, <u>289</u> or 290 further comprising employing biological samples that are selected for a preparation of blood-related products.

316-320. (Canceled)

321. (Currently amended) A method according to any of claim 284, 286, 288, 289 or 290 wherein said selected samples are supply samples for preparation of blood products.

322-323. (Canceled).

- 324. (Currently amended) The method according to claim [283, 285, 287 or 289] 284, wherein the selected samples do not comprise antibodies that form an antigen-antibody complex with an amino acid sequence of less than about 100 contiguous amino acids encoded by a hepatitis C virus genome.
- 325. (Currently amended) The method according to claim [283, 285, 287 or 289] 286, wherein the selected samples do not comprise antibodies that form an antigen-antibody complex with an amino acid sequence of less than about 100 contiguous amino acids encoded by an HCV cDNA insert in the lambda gt-11 library deposited as ATCC deposit No. 40394.
- 326. (Currently amended) The method according to claim [283, 285, 287 or 289] 288 wherein the selected samples do not comprise antibodies that form an antigen-antibody complex with an amino acid sequence of less than about 100 contiguous amino acids found in Figure 90.

Sep-19-03

PATENT USSN 08/441,355 Docket No. 223002006313 Client Reference PP00063.021

327. (Currently amended) A method according to any of claims [283, 285, 287 or 289] 284, 286, 288-290 wherein the contiguous sequence is found within the sequence selected from the group consisting of:

AA1-AA50; AA1-AA84; AA9-AA177; AA1-AA120; AA35-AA45; AA50-AA100; AA40-AA90; AA65-AA75; AA80-AA90; AA99-AA120; AA95-AA110; AA100-AA150; AA150-AA200; AA200-AA250; AA220-AA240; AA245-AA265; AA250-AA300; AA290-AA330; AA290-AA305; AA300-AA350; AA310-AA330; AA350-AA400; AA405-AA495; AA400-AA450; AA437-AA582; AA450-AA500; AA475-AA495; AA500-AA550; AA511-AA690; AA515-AA550; AA550-AA600; AA550-AA625; AA575-AA605; AA600-AA650; AA600-AA625; AA635-AA665; AA650-AA700; AA645-AA680; AA700-AA750; AA700-AA725; AA725-AA775; AA770-AA790; AA750-AA800; AA800-AA815; AA850-AA875; AA800-AA850; AA920-AA990; AA850-AA900; AA920-AA945; AA940-AA965; AA950-AA1000; AA1000-AA1060; AA1000-AA1050; AA1025-AA1040; AA1075-AA1175; AA1000-AA1060; AA1000-AA1050; AA1025-AA1040; AA1075-AA1175; AA1050-AA1200; AA1070-AA1100; AA1100-AA1140; AA1192-AA1457; AA1195-AA1250; AA1200-AA1225; AA1225-AA1250; AA1250-AA1300; AA1260-AA1310; AA1260-AA1280; AA1266-AA1428; AA1300-AA1350; AA1310-AA1340; AA1345-AA1405; AA1350-AA1400; AA1365-AA1380; AA1380-AA1405; AA1400-AA1450; AA1450-AA1500; AA1475-AA1500; AA1500-AA1550; AA1515-AA1550; AA1550-AA1600; AA1569-AA1931; AA1570-AA1590, AA1595-AA1610; AA1590-AA1650; AA1610-AA1645; AA1650-AA1690; AA1685-AA1770; AA1689-AA1805; AA1690-AA1720; AA1694-AA1735; AA1720-AA1745; AA1745-AA1770; AA1750-AA1800; AA1775-AA1810; AA1795-AA1850; AA1850-AA1900; AA1900-AA1950; AA1900-AA1920; AA1916-AA2021; AA1920-AA1940; AA1949-AA2124; AA1950-AA2000; AA1950-AA1985; AA2000-AA2050; AA2020-AA2045; AA2045-AA2100; AA2045-AA2070; AA2054-AA2223; AA2070-AA2100; AA2100-AA2150; AA2150-AA2220; AA2200-AA2345; AA2250-AA2330; AA2265-AA2280; AA2280-AA2290; AA2287-AA2385; AA2300-AA2350; AA2350-AA2400; AA2345-AA2415; AA2345-AA2375; AA2348-AA2464, AA2370-AA2410; AA2400-AA2450; AA2400-AA2425; AA2415-AA2450; AA2445-AA2500; AA2371-AA2502; AA2500-AA2550; AA2505-AA2540; AA2550-AA2600; AA2560-AA2580; AA2600-AA2650; AA2620-AA2650; AA2650-AA2700;

AA2655-AA2670; AA2670-AA2700; AA2700-AA2750; AA2750-AA2800; AA2755-AA2780; AA2780-AA2830; AA2785-AA2810; AA2796-AA2886; AA2810-AA2825; AA2800-AA2850; AA2850-AA2900; AA2900-AA2950; AA2910-AA2930; and AA2925-AA2950, wherein the contiguous amino acid sequence is depicted according to the formula AA_x-AA_y, x and y denoting amino acid numbers HCV-1 polyprotein or corresponding regions of other HCV isolates.

328-329. (Canceled)

- 330. (Currently amended) The method according to claim [328] 327 wherein said biological samples are blood.
 - 331. (Canceled)
- 332. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 327 wherein said biological samples are sera.
 - 333. (Canceled)
- 334. (Currently amended) The method according to claim [328] <u>327</u> wherein said biological samples are plasma.
 - 335. (Canceled)
- 336. (Currently amended) A method according to any of claims [324-327] 284, 286, or 288-290 wherein the contiguous sequence is found within the sequence selected from the group consisting of:

AA1-AA84; AA37-AA582; AA511-AA690; AA9-AA177; AA1192-AA1457; AA1266-AA1428; AA1694-AA1735; AA1689-AA1805; AA1916-AA2021; AA1949-AA2124; AA2054-AA2223; AA2200-AA3325; AA2287-AA2385; AA2348-AA2464; AA2371-AA2502; AA2796-AA2886; AA1569-AA1931, wherein the contiguous amino acid sequence is depicted according

to the formula AA_x - AA_y , x and y denoting amino acid numbers HCV-1 polyprotein or corresponding regions of other HCV isolates.

337-338. (Canceled)

- 339. (Currently amended) The method according to claim [337] <u>336</u> wherein said biological samples are blood.
 - 340. (Canceled)
- 341. (Currently amended) The method according to claim [337] <u>336</u> wherein said biological samples are plasma.
 - 342. (Canceled)
- 343. (Currently amended) The method according to claim [337] 336 wherein said biological samples are sera.
 - 344. (Canceled)
- 345. (New) A method according to claims 284, 286, or 288-290 wherein the selected samples comprise one or more contiguous amino acid sequences selected from the following group:

AA1-AA84; AA437-AA582; AA511-AA690; AA9-AA177; AA1192-AA1457; AA1266-AA1428; AA1694-AA1735; AA1689-AA1805; AA1916-AA2021; AA1949-AA2124; AA2054-AA2223; AA2200-AA3325; AA2287-AA2385; AA2348-AA2464; AA2371-AA2502; AA2796-AA2886; AA1569-AA1931,

wherein the contiguous amino acid sequence is depicted according to the formula AA_x-AA_y, x and y denoting amino acid numbers HCV-1 polyprotein or corresponding regions of other HCV isolates.

- 346. (New) A method according to claim 345 wherein said biological samples are blood.
- 347. (New) A method according to claim 345 wherein said biological samples are plasma.
 - 348. (New) A method according to claim 345 wherein said biological samples are sera.
- 349. (New) A method according to claim 297 wherein said contiguous amino acid sequence is at least 15 amino acids.
- 350. (New) A method according to claim 302 wherein said contiguous amino acid sequence is at least 15 amino acids.
- 351. (New) A method according to claim 307 wherein said contiguous amino acid sequence is at least 15 amino acids.
- 352. (New) A method according to claim 315 wherein said contiguous amino acid sequence is at least 15 amino acids.
- 353. (New) A method according to claim 321 wherein said contiguous amino acid sequence is at least 15 amino acids.
- 354. (New) A method according to claim 349 wherein said contiguous amino acid sequence is less than about 100 contiguous amino acids.
- 355. (New) A method according to claim 350 wherein said contiguous amino acid sequence is less than about 100 contiguous amino acids.

Sep-19-03

- 356. (New) A method according to claim 351 wherein said contiguous amino acid sequence is less than about 100 contiguous amino acids.
- 357. (New) A method according to claim 352 wherein said contiguous amino acid sequence is less than about 100 contiguous amino acids.
- 358. (New) A method according to claim 353 wherein said contiguous amino acid sequence is less than about 100 contiguous amino acids.
- 359. (New) A method according to claim 137 wherein said contiguous amino acid sequence is at least 15 amino acids.
- 360. (New) A method according to claim 143 wherein said contiguous amino acid sequence is at least 15 amino acids.
- 361. (New) A method according to claim 149 wherein said contiguous amino acid sequence is at least 15 amino acids.
- 362. (New) A method according to claim 136 wherein said contiguous amino acid sequence is at least 15 amino acids
- 363. (New) A method according to claim 142 wherein said contiguous amino acid sequence is at least 15 amino acids.
- 364. (New) A method according to claim 148 wherein said contiguous amino acid sequence is at least 15 amino acids.
- 365. (New) A method according to claim 150 wherein said contiguous amino acid sequence is at least 15 amino acids.

- 366. (New) A method according to claim 152 wherein said contiguous amino acid sequence is at least 15 amino acids.
- 367. (New) A method according to claim 313 wherein said contiguous amino acid sequence is at least 15 amino acids.
- 368. (New) A method according to claim 132 wherein said contiguous amino acid sequence is at least 15 amino acids.
- 369. (New) A method according to claim 138 wherein said contiguous amino acid sequence is at least 15 amino acids.
- 370. (New) A method according to claim 144 wherein said contiguous amino acid sequence is at least 15 amino acids.
- 371. (New) A method according to claim 359 wherein said contiguous amino acid sequence is less than about 100 contiguous amino acids.
- 372. (New) A method according to claim 360 wherein said contiguous amino acid sequence is less than about 100 contiguous amino acids.
- 373. (New) A method according to claim 361 wherein said contiguous amino acid sequence is less than about 100 contiguous amino acids.
- 374. (New) A method according to claim 362 wherein said contiguous amino acid sequence is less than about 100 contiguous amino acids.
- 375. (New) A method according to claim 363 wherein said contiguous amino acid sequence is less than about 100 contiguous amino acids.

- 376. (New) A method according to claim 364 wherein said contiguous amino acid sequence is less than about 100 contiguous amino acids.
- 377. (New) A method according to claim 365 wherein said contiguous amino acid sequence is less than about 100 contiguous amino acids.
- 378. (New) A method according to claim 366 wherein said contiguous amino acid sequence is less than about 100 contiguous amino acids.
- 379. (New) A method according to claim 367 wherein said contiguous amino acid sequence is less than about 100 contiguous amino acids.
- 380. (New) A method according to claim 368 wherein said contiguous amino acid sequence is less than about 100 contiguous amino acids.
- 381 (New) A method according to claim 369 wherein said contiguous amino acid sequence is less than about 100 contiguous amino acids.
- 382. (New) A method according to claim 370 wherein said contiguous amino acid sequence is less than about 100 contiguous amino acids.
- 383. (New) The method according to claim 183 wherein said contiguous amino acid sequence is less than about 100 amino acids.